

FOREWORD

It gives me pleasure to present the *Proceedings* of the Western Decision Sciences Institute's Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting, held at The Hilton Waikoloa Village, Waikoloa, Hawaii, April 11 – 15, 2006. This volume contains 262 papers and abstracts of authors worldwide. Each submission was peer-reviewed by at least two anonymous referees under the supervision of the Program Chair and Track Chairs. Papers in this volume are organized by Track.

A conference of this size requires the combined and coordinated efforts of hundreds of volunteers. The 2006 WDSI Annual Meeting was supported by an exceptional Program Planning Committee consisting of Track Chairs and Country Contacts. I thank each member of the Committee for their role in coordinating the review process, organizing sessions in a timely manner, and otherwise facilitating my efforts to oversee the planning of the conference. I am also indebted to the many referees who carefully reviewed the submissions. Last but not least, I thank the authors, without whose contributions, this conference would not be possible.

A number of other individuals also played important roles assisting me in the development and planning of the conference. In particular, I express thanks to Nafisseh Heiat (Montana State University-Billings), WDSI Director of Information Systems, and Dick Jenson (Utah State University), WDSI Treasurer, for their outstanding and timely technical support, and to Krishna Dhir (Berry College), WDSI Past President, Miles Nicholls (RMIT University), WDSI Immediate Past President, Cynthia Pavett (University of San Diego), WDSI President, and Bruce Raymond (Montana State University-Bozeman), WDSI President – Elect, each of whom preceded me as program chair, and was an important source of wisdom and counsel. I am also indebted to Alan Stephens, Business Administration Department Head, Utah State University, for his support of my efforts, both financial, and moral, and of WDSI. Lastly I thank Bob Hamm, Erinn Kruser, and the staff at Omnipress for their help and suggestions with the development of these *Proceedings*.

Vijay R. Kannan

Proceedings Editor
Utah State University